
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2010 No. 2955

The Family Procedure Rules 2010

PART 30

APPEALS

Scope and interpretation

30.1.—(1) The rules in this Part apply to appeals to—

- (a) the High Court; and
- (b) a county court.

(2) This Part does not apply to an appeal in detailed assessment proceedings against a decision of an authorised court officer.

(Rules 47.20 to 47.23 of the CPR deal with appeals against a decision of an authorised court officer in detailed assessment proceedings.)

(3) In this Part—

“appeal court” means the court to which an appeal is made;

“appeal notice” means an appellant’s or respondent’s notice;

“appellant” means a person who brings or seeks to bring an appeal;

“lower court” means the court from which, or the person from whom, the appeal lies; and

“respondent” means—

- (a) a person other than the appellant who was a party to the proceedings in the lower court and who is affected by the appeal; and
- (b) a person who is permitted by the appeal court to be a party to the appeal.

(4) This Part is subject to any rule, enactment or practice direction which sets out special provisions with regard to any particular category of appeal.

Parties to comply with the practice direction

30.2. All parties to an appeal must comply with Practice Direction 30A.

Permission

30.3.—(1) An appellant or respondent requires permission to appeal—

- (a) against a decision in proceedings where the decision appealed against was made by a district judge or a costs judge, unless paragraph (2) applies; or
- (b) as provided by Practice Direction 30A.

(2) Permission to appeal is not required where the appeal is against—

- (a) a committal order; or

(b) a secure accommodation order under section 25 of the 1989 Act.

(3) An application for permission to appeal may be made—

(a) to the lower court at the hearing at which the decision to be appealed was made; or

(b) to the appeal court in an appeal notice.

(Rule 30.4 sets out the time limits for filing an appellant’s notice at the appeal court. Rule 30.5 sets out the time limits for filing a respondent’s notice at the appeal court. Any application for permission to appeal to the appeal court must be made in the appeal notice (see rules 30.4(1) and 30.5(3).)

(4) Where the lower court refuses an application for permission to appeal, a further application for permission to appeal may be made to the appeal court.

(5) Where the appeal court, without a hearing, refuses permission to appeal, the person seeking permission may request the decision to be reconsidered at a hearing.

(6) A request under paragraph (5) must be filed within 7 days beginning with the date on which the notice that permission has been refused was served.

(7) Permission to appeal may be given only where—

(a) the court considers that the appeal would have a real prospect of success; or

(b) there is some other compelling reason why the appeal should be heard.

(8) An order giving permission may—

(a) limit the issues to be heard; and

(b) be made subject to conditions.

(9) In this rule “costs judge” means a taxing master of the Senior Courts.

Appellant’s notice

30.4.—(1) Where the appellant seeks permission from the appeal court it must be requested in the appellant’s notice.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), the appellant must file the appellant’s notice at the appeal court within —

(a) such period as may be directed by the lower court (which may be longer or shorter than the period referred to in sub-paragraph (b)); or

(b) where the court makes no such direction, 21 days after the date of the decision of the lower court against which the appellant wishes to appeal.

(3) Where the appeal is against an order under section 38(1) of the 1989 Act, the appellant must file the appellant’s notice within 7 days beginning with the date of the decision of the lower court.

(4) Unless the appeal court orders otherwise, an appellant’s notice must be served on each respondent and the persons referred to in paragraph (5)—

(a) as soon as practicable; and

(b) in any event not later than 7 days,

after it is filed.

(5) The persons referred to in paragraph (4) are—

(a) any children’s guardian, welfare officer, or children and family reporter;

(b) a local authority who has prepared a report under section 14A(8) or (9) of the 1989 Act;

(c) an adoption agency or local authority which has prepared a report on the suitability of the applicant to adopt a child;

- (d) a local authority which has prepared a report on the placement of the child for adoption; and
- (e) where the appeal is from a magistrates' court, the court officer.

Respondent's notice

30.5.—(1) A respondent may file and serve a respondent's notice.

(2) A respondent who—

- (a) is seeking permission to appeal from the appeal court; or
- (b) wishes to ask the appeal court to uphold the order of the lower court for reasons different from or additional to those given by the lower court,

must file a respondent's notice.

(3) Where the respondent seeks permission from the appeal court it must be requested in the respondent's notice.

(4) A respondent's notice must be filed within—

- (a) such period as may be directed by the lower court; or
- (b) where the court makes no such direction, 14 days beginning with the date referred to in paragraph (5).

(5) The date referred to in paragraph (4) is—

- (a) the date on which the respondent is served with the appellant's notice where—
 - (i) permission to appeal was given by the lower court; or
 - (ii) permission to appeal is not required;
- (b) the date on which the respondent is served with notification that the appeal court has given the appellant permission to appeal; or
- (c) the date on which the respondent is served with notification that the application for permission to appeal and the appeal itself are to be heard together.

(6) Unless the appeal court orders otherwise, a respondent's notice must be served on the appellant, any other respondent and the persons referred to in rule 30.4(5)—

- (a) as soon as practicable; and
- (b) in any event not later than 7 days,

after it is filed.

(7) Where there is an appeal against an order under section 38(1) of the 1989 Act—

- (a) a respondent may not, in that appeal, bring an appeal from the order or ask the appeal court to uphold the order of the lower court for reasons different from or additional to those given by the lower court; and
- (b) paragraphs (2) and (3) do not apply.

Grounds of appeal

30.6. The appeal notice must state the grounds of appeal.

Variation of time

30.7.—(1) An application to vary the time limit for filing an appeal notice must be made to the appeal court.

(2) The parties may not agree to extend any date or time limit set by—

- (a) these rules;
- (b) Practice Direction 30A; or
- (c) an order of the appeal court or the lower court.

(Rule 4.1(3)(a) provides that the court may extend or shorten the time for compliance with a rule, practice direction or court order (even if an application for extension is made after the time for compliance has expired).)

(Rule 4.1(3)(c) provides that the court may adjourn or bring forward a hearing.)

Stay

30.8. Unless the appeal court or the lower court orders otherwise, an appeal does not operate as a stay^(GL) of any order or decision of the lower court.

Amendment of appeal notice

30.9. An appeal notice may not be amended without the permission of the appeal court.

Striking out appeal notices and setting aside or imposing conditions on permission to appeal

30.10.—(1) The appeal court may—

- (a) strike out^(GL) the whole or part of an appeal notice;
- (b) set aside^(GL) permission to appeal in whole or in part;
- (c) impose or vary conditions upon which an appeal may be brought.

(2) The court will only exercise its powers under paragraph (1) where there is a compelling reason for doing so.

(3) Where a party was present at the hearing at which permission was given that party may not subsequently apply for an order that the court exercise its powers under paragraphs (1)(b) or (1)(c).

Appeal court's powers

30.11.—(1) In relation to an appeal the appeal court has all the powers of the lower court.

(Rule 30.1(4) provides that this Part is subject to any enactment that sets out special provisions with regard to any particular category of appeal.)

(2) The appeal court has power to—

- (a) affirm, set aside^(GL) or vary any order or judgment made or given by the lower court;
- (b) refer any application or issue for determination by the lower court;
- (c) order a new hearing;
- (d) make orders for the payment of interest;
- (e) make a costs order.

(3) The appeal court may exercise its powers in relation to the whole or part of an order of the lower court.

(Rule 4.1 contains general rules about the court's case management powers.)

(4) If the appeal court—

- (a) refuses an application for permission to appeal;
- (b) strikes out an appellant's notice; or

(c) dismisses an appeal,
and it considers that the application, the appellant's notice or the appeal is totally without merit, the provisions of paragraph (5) must be complied with.

- (5) Where paragraph (4) applies—
- (a) the court's order must record the fact that it considers the application, the appellant's notice or the appeal to be totally without merit; and
 - (b) the court must at the same time consider whether it is appropriate to make a civil restraint order.

Hearing of appeals

- 30.12.**—(1) Every appeal will be limited to a review of the decision of the lower court unless—
- (a) an enactment or practice direction makes different provision for a particular category of appeal; or
 - (b) the court considers that in the circumstances of an individual appeal it would be in the interests of justice to hold a re-hearing.
- (2) Unless it orders otherwise, the appeal court will not receive—
- (a) oral evidence; or
 - (b) evidence which was not before the lower court.
- (3) The appeal court will allow an appeal where the decision of the lower court was—
- (a) wrong; or
 - (b) unjust because of a serious procedural or other irregularity in the proceedings in the lower court.
- (4) The appeal court may draw any inference of fact which it considers justified on the evidence.
- (5) At the hearing of the appeal a party may not rely on a matter not contained in that party's appeal notice unless the appeal court gives permission.

Assignment of appeals to the Court of Appeal

- 30.13.**—(1) Where the court from or to which an appeal is made or from which permission to appeal is sought ("the relevant court") considers that—
- (a) an appeal which is to be heard by a county court or the High Court would raise an important point of principle or practice; or
 - (b) there is some other compelling reason for the Court of Appeal to hear it,
- the relevant court may order the appeal to be transferred to the Court of Appeal.
- (2) This rule does not apply to proceedings in a magistrates' court.

Reopening of final appeals

- 30.14.**—(1) The High Court will not reopen a final determination of any appeal unless—
- (a) it is necessary to do so in order to avoid real injustice;
 - (b) the circumstances are exceptional and make it appropriate to reopen the appeal; and
 - (c) there is no alternative effective remedy.
- (2) In paragraphs (1), (3), (4) and (6), "appeal" includes an application for permission to appeal.
- (3) This rule does not apply to appeals to a county court.

(4) Permission is needed to make an application under this rule to reopen a final determination of an appeal.

(5) There is no right to an oral hearing of an application for permission unless, exceptionally, the judge so directs.

(6) The judge will not grant permission without directing the application to be served on the other party to the original appeal and giving that party an opportunity to make representations.

(7) There is no right of appeal or review from the decision of the judge on the application for permission, which is final.

(8) The procedure for making an application for permission is set out in Practice Direction 30A.